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*LIMITED TO MATTERS
AND PROCEEDINGS BEFORE
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August 23, 2001

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Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Re: U.S. Utility Patent Application
Appl. No. 09/076,115; Filed: May 12, 1998
For: **Methods for Production and Purification of Nucleic Acid Molecules**
Inventors: Gruber *et al.*
Our Ref: 0942.4350001/RWE/MJC

Sir:

Transmitted herewith for appropriate action are the following documents:

1. Amendment And Reply Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116;
2. Form PTO-1449 (1 sheet citing Document Reference AS5);
3. Document Reference AS5; and
4. One (1) return postcard.

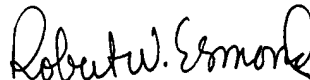
It is respectfully requested that the attached postcard be stamped with the date of filing of these documents, and that it be returned to our courier. In the event that extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of this patent application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned.

Commissioner for Patents
August 23, 2001
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The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-0036. A duplicate copy of this letter is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.



Robert W. Esmond
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RWE/MJC/lam
Enclosures

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